(d) the suitable available candidates are nominated for training courses abroad.

Funds on Account of Natural Calamities

4903. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no funds available with the Collector, Sambalpur (Orissa) on account of natural calamities as reported in "Samaj" dated the 7th April, 2000;

(b) whether any monitoring is being conducted in respect of above fund from time to time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing resources in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. No report in this regard has been received from the Government of Orissa.

Production of Pearls in the country

4904. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRI CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of production! of pearls from our coastal centres;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify pearl-prone areas in the country;

(c) if so, what are the areas identified;

(d) whether Government have studied any proposal in developing Tuticorin as a pearl fetching center, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Approximately 3 kgs. of pearls are produced every year through culture activities at Mandapam and Tuticorin.

(b) and (c) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has carried out extensive surveys to identify the natural pearl oyster beds and also locations for experimental production of artificial pearls in the country. The identified locations are:

Andhra Pradesh — Kakinada, Visakhapatnam,

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Gujarat — Sikka and Okha,

Kerala — Calicut, Vizhinjam,

Lakshadweep Group of Islands,

Tamilnadu — Tuticorin & Mandapam

(d) and (e) The CMFRI has established a hatchery for pearl oyster seed production at Tuticorin and has taken up programmes on replenishment of pearl oyster stocks in natural bed and quality improvement in cultured pearls.

Coastal Wealth

4905. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any special proposals from coastal States to develop their coastal wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether the Department of Ocean Development have identified pearl fetching areas in our coastal centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are under implementation in the coastal States for optimally exploiting the fishery resources within thecoastal, as well as offshore waters of the country:— (i) Development of Marine Fisheries (ii) Fishing Harbours at major and minor ports (iii) Integrated Coastal Aquaculture (iv) National Welfare of Fishermen.

Under the Scheme of Marine Fisheries, there are two components viz (I) Motorisation of Traditional Craft and (ii) Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metre overall length. The scheme aims at technological upgradation of